GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4291
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Air Pollution in Rural Areas
Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution is going up in rural areas of the country due to expansion of industries;
(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted regarding the affects of air pollution in the rural areas;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps being taken by the Government to create awareness amongst the common man regarding air pollution in the rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The air quality in the country is assessed under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) through a network comprising of 680 operating monitoring stations located in 300 cities/towns all across the country. The monitoring network does not cover rural areas in general. However, four ambient air quality monitoring stations have been setup under NAMP in rural areas of Punjab. Air quality data for last four years for these stations is annexed. The trend indicates that values of SO2 and NO2 in terms of annual standards were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 50 Âµg/m3 and 40 Âµg/m3and PM10 exceeded the national standard value of 60 Âµg/m3. However, the data does not indicate specific increase of pollution during the years.

(b) & (c) No specific study has been carried out in recent time by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change regarding effects of air pollution in rural areas.

(d) In order to raise awareness regarding air pollution including in rural areas, Government has launched the National Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into single number, nomenclature and colour; for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. There are six AQI categories namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe. Each of these categories is based on ambient concentration of air pollutants and their likely health impacts. AQI takes into account values of eight pollutants viz. PM10, PM2.5, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia for which short term (upto 24 hrs) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed. Based on the measured ambient concentrations of pollutants, AQI is calculated.
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